

**FOR RELEASE: January 11, 2001**

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**MEDIA ADVISORY**

**MMS Holds Public Scoping Meeting on Proposed Exploratory Activity on Undeveloped Leases  
Offshore Santa Barbara County, California.**

The Interior Department's Minerals Management Service (MMS) will hold a public scoping meeting on Monday, January 22, 2001 at Allan Hancock College in Santa Maria, California. The scoping meeting is part of the MMS's preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on proposed exploratory activity offshore Santa Barbara County. Information from the public will determine the scope of the EIS and identify significant issues related to the proposed action.

Meeting specifics:      **When:                      January 22, 2001 -- 5:30 PM - 9:00 PM**  
                                 **Where:                      Allan Hancock College, Marian Theater, Bldg. D**  
                                 **800 S. College Drive**  
                                 **Santa Maria, California**

The format for the public meeting will be as follows:

- 5:30 - 6:30 pm Poster sessions and informal discussions with MMS scientific and technical staff
- 6:30 - 7:00 pm Introductions & Presentations of Project Descriptions for the delineation drilling projects
- 7:00 - 7:15 pm Presentations of Proposed Action and Cumulative Analysis components of the EIS
- 7:15 - 9:00 pm Public Input – "Open Microphone" led by facilitator

The public is strongly encouraged to provide input on the scope and content of the EIS by conventional mail or email. Respondents should include a name and mailing address with their comments.

Mail **name, mailing address, and comments** to:      **Office of Environmental Evaluation**  
   **Exploration Activities EIS**  
   **Minerals Management Service**  
   **Pacific OCS Region**  
   **770 Paseo Camarillo, Camarillo, CA 93010**  
Email **name, mailing address, and comments** to:      **ExplorationEIS@mms.gov**

The EIS will identify and assess potential impacts and mitigation associated with proposals to drill five to eight delineation wells on three undeveloped units in the Santa Maria Basin and one undeveloped unit in the western Santa Barbara Channel. Tentatively, a draft version of the EIS will be published for broad public review in the summer of 2001.

MMS is the federal agency that manages the Nation's natural gas, oil and other mineral resources on the Outer Continental Shelf. The agency also collects, accounts for, and disburses over \$5 billion per year in revenues from federal offshore mineral leases and from onshore mineral leases on federal and Indian lands.

**-MMS-PACIFIC-**

Visit the MMS website at: [www.mms.gov](http://www.mms.gov)